

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mizoguchi** (USP 5,841,466, previously cited) in view of **Ito** (US 2001/0021979, previously cited). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, it is noted that the claims have been amended to clarify certain aspects of the invention. More specifically, using claim 1 as exemplary, the claims have been amended to clarify that the present invention “[inhibits] operation of the liquid crystal projector, except a power-off operation of the liquid crystal projector, by nullifying operation of keys of the operation means, except operation of a power key provided in the operation means.” Support for this amendment is provided, e.g., on page 8, lines 7-17 of the application specification.

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, even if an incorrect password is entered a predetermined number of times, the power to the liquid crystal projector can be turned off. This prevents the light source lamp from remaining on, and prevents the life of the light source lamp from being shortened.

It is submitted that **Mizoguchi** does not disclose or suggest “inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal projector, except a power-off operation of the liquid crystal projector, by nullifying

operation of keys of the operation means, except operation of a power key provided in the operation means...,” as recited in claim 1 (and similarly in claims 2-4).

In the present Office Action, the Examiner asserts:

The limitation “nullifying a key operation” is very broad. The Examiner takes nullifying to mean that at least part of the main purpose of the key operation is cancelled, and Mizoguchi clearly nullifies the key operation, which is the input of the password, by restricting the image input switch from turning on.

However, the image input switch SW of **Mizoguchi** (see Fig. 4) is not a key operational by a user, but a switch which is controlled to be turned on/off by the controller 30. Therefore, inhibiting the image input switch SW from turning on when the passwords do not coincide is not equivalent to nullifying the key operation by the user.

Moreover, applicants respectfully disagree with the statement that “Mizoguchi clearly nullifies the key operation, *which is input of the password*, by restricting the image input switch from turning on.” [emphasis added]. The key operation of the keys 14 used to input the password is **not** nullified by restricting operation of the image input switch. Instead, as discussed above, the image input switch SW is inhibited from turning on when the passwords do not coincide. However, the password can apparently be entered at any time by using the keys 14. Thus, the operation of the keys 14 is not nullified in **Mizoguchi**. The keys 14 operate until a correct password is entered (see loop of steps S15-S17).

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 103 are respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/644,068
Art Unit: 2629

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 031016

CONCLUSION

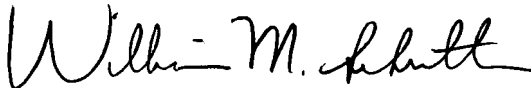
In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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